

Epi Update for Friday, June 1, 2018

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Cyclosporiasis cluster investigation in Iowa**
- **Influenza end of season summary**
- **Vancomycin intermediate and Vancomycin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus***
- **In the news: Dark chocolate may give your brain a boost, studies suggest**
- **In the news: Cod and "Immune Broth": California tests food as medicine**
- **Infographic: HAI patient empowerment**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Cyclosporiasis cluster investigation in Iowa

The Iowa Department of Public Health, in collaboration with local public health partners and the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, is investigating a cluster of cyclosporiasis cases. In the last several weeks, seven cases of cyclosporiasis were reported to IDPH.

If cyclosporiasis is suspected, please collect a stool specimen and request *Cyclospora*-specific testing (such as the special acid-fast stain that is needed to identify *Cyclospora* oocysts or PCR testing). IDPH is also requesting that positive specimens are forwarded to the State Hygienic Laboratory for further analysis. .

Influenza end of season summary

The 2017-2018 influenza surveillance season (the surveillance season runs from October 1, 2017 through May 19, 2018) is officially over, and this season has been one of the most severe seasons in recent history.

- More than 1500 influenza positive specimens were subtyped by the State Hygienic Laboratory, over 60 percent subtyped as influenza A(H3) and over 30 percent as influenza B(Yamagata lineage).
- 14,423 of 63,572 (23 percent) rapid influenza tests performed by laboratories across the state were positive.
- Almost 1900 influenza-related hospitalizations were reported by hospitals that participate in influenza surveillance.
- 270 influenza-associated deaths were reported during the season.
- Outpatient influenza-like illness was reported above the baseline of 1.9 percent of all patient visits, for 10 weeks of the influenza season.
- Over 300 separate reports of schools with greater than 10 percent absence due to illness were made to IDPH.
- 90 long-term care influenza outbreaks were investigated by IDPH.

Even though influenza activity is low in Iowa currently, health care providers should continue to submit specimens for persons with influenza-like illness during the off-season, especially for those patients who are hospitalized, part of an outbreak, visiting an outpatient surveillance provider (ILINet), or report recent exposure to pigs or birds. This is important as it helps to detect possible novel virus circulating and because the reliability of influenza rapid tests are low when influenza virus prevalence is low in the community.

For more information on influenza, visit idph.iowa.gov/influenza.

Vancomycin intermediate and Vancomycin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

Across the United States, there have been thirteen reports of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria that are resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin (all have been susceptible to other antibiotics), none have been reported in Iowa.

If VISA or VRSA are suspected, please notify the Iowa Department of Public Health. Isolates should also be submitted to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) for additional testing. Please call SHL at 319-335-4335 prior to sending a suspected VISA/VRSA isolate. Failure to call SHL will result in a delayed turnaround time, negatively impacting patient care.

The original plate or vancomycin screening plate used at the submitting facility is the preferred specimen to send to SHL. Multiple subculturing of the isolate may cause the organism to lose the genetic component expressing non-susceptibility to vancomycin. If the original plate or vancomycin screening plate is not available, a slant or plate that has been isolated from the original isolate should be sent to avoid multiple subcultures.

Please ensure the submitted isolate is pure and free from any contaminating organisms:

- The organism should be saved by the submitting facility. All MRSA isolates from that patient should be saved by facility in case they are need for testing by the CDC.
- The organism should be shipped overnight to SHL, preferably with a tracking number or using SHL courier's service
- A completed antibiotic resistance surveillance test request form should accompany the isolate <http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml>.

In the news: Dark chocolate may give your brain a boost, studies suggest

www.goodmorningamerica.com/wellness/story/dark-chocolate-give-brain-boost-studies-suggest-54720101

In the news: Cod and 'Immune Broth': California tests food as medicine

www.nytimes.com/2018/05/11/health/food-as-medicine-california.html

Infographic: HAI patient empowerment



To view in full size, visit
www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/patientsafety/HAI-Patient-Empowerment.pdf.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities
 None

Have a healthy and happy week!
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